

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 13, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks and amendment have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 6-16 are pending in this application and Claims 6-16 are rejected.

The rejection of Claims 6-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hodgens, II, et al. (4,713,120) is respectfully traversed.

Hodgens, II et al. describe a composition and method for removing deposits (10) from internal components (24) of a gas turbine engine (18). Specifically, Hodgens, II et al. describe inserting a spray probe 20 through a boroscope port 21 to inject two solutions into engine (18). A first solution is a cleaning composition (15) formed from an aqueous solution, and is injected into the flowpath to loosen deposits (10) formed along the flowpath within engine (18). A second solution is a rinse solution (16) that is injected into engine (18) to facilitate removing both the cleaning composition (15) and loosened deposits. Notably, Hodgens, II et al. do not utilize an anti-static liquid to reduce a rate of formation of particulate matter within the gas turbine engine.

Claim 6 recites an apparatus for a gas turbine engine comprising “a washing system comprising a pump in flow communication with at least one nozzle and a reservoir, said washing system configured to inject a first fluid and a second fluid into the gas turbine engine, at least one of the first and second fluids configured to facilitate reducing a rate of formation of particulate matter within the gas turbine engine.”

Hodgens, II et al. do not describe nor suggest a method for washing a gas turbine engine with a washing system, wherein the method includes the steps of injecting a first liquid into the engine to remove particulate matter, and injecting a second liquid into the engine to facilitate reducing a rate of formation of particulate matter within the gas turbine engine by suppressing electrostatic attraction of the blades. Specifically, Hodgens, II et al. do not describe nor suggest injecting a second liquid into the engine to facilitate reducing a rate of formation of particulate matter within the engine by suppressing electrostatic attraction of particulate to the blades. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that repeated injections

of a cleaning solution, and/or the injection of a rinse solution, is not inherently analogous to injecting a solution into the engine that is designed to facilitate reducing a rate of formation of particulate matter by suppressing electrostatic attraction of particulate materials to the blades. Specifically, at Column 1, lines 42-44, for example, Hodgens, II et al. state that the exact nature of the chemical bond is unknown. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 6 is submitted to be patentable over Hodgens, II et al.

Claims 7-16 depend from independent Claim 6. When the recitations of Claims 7-16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 6, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 7-17 likewise are patentable over Hodgens, II et al.

Accordingly, and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request the Section 102 rejection of claims 6-16 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 6-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bartos, et al. (4,059,123) is respectfully traversed.

Bartos, et al. describe a self-contained turbine engine cleaning and preservation unit 10. Unit 10 includes a water reservoir 18, a preservative reservoir 20, and a solvent reservoir 24. Solvent reservoir 24 contains a cleaning solution, and preservative reservoir 20 contains a preservation solution for protecting engine components from rust.

Bartos, et al. do not describe nor suggest a method for washing a gas turbine engine with a washing system, wherein the method includes the steps of injecting a first liquid into the engine to remove particulate matter, and injecting a second liquid into the engine to facilitate reducing a rate of formation of particulate matter within the gas turbine engine by suppressing electrostatic attraction of the blades. Specifically, Bartos, et al. do not describe nor suggest injecting a second liquid into the engine to facilitate reducing a rate of formation of particulate matter within the engine, by suppressing electrostatic attraction of particulate to the blades. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that injecting a rust inhibitor into the engine, is not analogous to injecting a solution into the engine to facilitate reducing a rate of formation of particulate matter by suppressing electrostatic attraction of particulate to the blades.

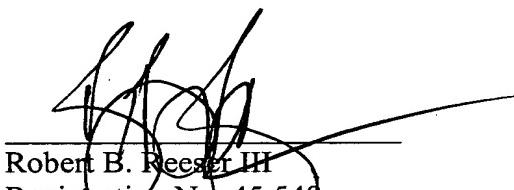
Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 6 is submitted to be patentable over Bartos, et al.

Claims 7-16 depend from independent Claim 6. When the recitations of Claims 7-16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 6, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 7-17 likewise are patentable over Bartos, et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of Claims 6-16 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert B. Reeser III
Registration No. 45,548
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070